

Re: RM-10867

Dear Sirs:

I have been an amateur radio operator for many years. I am also a member of the ARRL in good standing. I studied hard to learn the rules and regulations, theory, Morse code, and operating practices to work my way all the way up to Extra Class. I passed my Morse code test at 20wpm just before the code requirements were relaxed. I am proud of the work I did and the effort I put forth.

My perception is that the ARRL is on a membership drive. Over the years, I have watched them push to relax the requirements for all license classes. In my mind's eye, it appears that they want to "dumb down" all the requirements so just about anyone can get a license with little more than an Application. Where is the incentive to become an Extra Class operator now? It is no longer an "elite" class where its population has proved exemplary proficiency in both code and theory. The theory testing now only proves one's proficiency at rote memorization. There are test question pools and books and web sites where one can go and simply memorize the answers to all questions. I also feel there should be some Morse code requirement for entry, and a sufficient requirement for Morse code proficiency for the "top class."

I fear the road the ARRL is leading its membership down is a bad one. I see, especially in QST magazine, the ARRL explaining outright that the proposed rule change would be the right thing to do for its membership. In the March QST, they published 4 feedback letters regarding the proposal. Naturally, three of the four were pro RM-10867. To me that's not unbiased.

In conclusion, I feel the proposed rule change is a step backward. Lowering the requirements will lower the quality of the amateur community and would be a disservice. I therefore would ask the Commission to deny the ARRL request. We don't need more, we need better.

Thank you very much,

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